



The Hongkong Telegraph

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Typhoid On P & O Liner

SIX OF THE CREW INFECTED

London, Dec. 21. — Six cases of typhoid fever have been confirmed among the crew of the 21,039-ton P & O liner Mooltan, which docked in London six days ago with 847 passengers from Australia, a spokesman of the company disclosed today.

The Mooltan's sailing due on January 4, has been cancelled. Since she arrived in London, 14 of the crew of 231 also carried a fever, and 231 have been taken to hospital.

The British Ministry of Health stated today that six of these cases have now been confirmed as typhoid and the other eight are suspected typhoid cases.

The Health Ministry was notifying the outbreak to health officers in towns to which passengers and crew had travelled.

The Mooltan, already quarantined twice before this year because of smallpox aboard, called at Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Suez, Port Said and Marseilles on the voyage home from Australia.

Immediately, she docked in London three suspected typhoid cases were sent to hospital, followed shortly afterwards by 11 more.

Six confirmed cases were moved to a fever hospital.—Reuter.

EXPLOSION IN COAL MINE

Mons, Dec. 21.—A Hungarian miner, Sandor Groszka, was killed today when an explosion occurred in a coal mine near here. Two other miners—an Italian and a Pole—were still trapped late tonight.

Rescuers were trying to get them. Of the 42 miners who escaped today two were slightly injured. Ten of them, however, were taken to hospital suffering from gas intoxication.

The explosion occurred when the roof of a gallery caved in, provoking an accumulation of fire damp.—Reuter.

No News Of Ship

Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 21.—The owners of the only Canadian ship known to be running the Nationalist blockade near Shanghai said today that they had not heard from the vessel in nearly two weeks.

John Rose, President of the western Canadian Steamship Company, said the freighter Lake Canim left Hongkong on December 8 or 9 for Shanghai.

"We are waiting for word from her now," he added. "We have not heard anything since she left Hongkong, but I hope she made it okay."

He said also that it was "rather difficult to get information from Shanghai just now" and the 10,000-ton freighter would continue to run the blockade "so long as we can find any business for her."—United Press.

Big Fire Under Control

London, Dec. 21. Firemen reported tonight that they had "cornered" the blaze in the basement of the Covent Garden fruit and flower market after a 29-hour battle that caused the greatest number of casualties in the peacetime history of the London Fire Brigade.

Four hundred firemen from London's brigades had fought since 11 a.m. yesterday against flames that started in a pile of empty boxes and castaway Christmas trees in vaults under the great glass-roofed flower market.

At later stages of the fire the men were fighting, not only against the flames and smoke which caused one death, 20 hospital casualties and 35 minor injuries, but also the risk of dropping in the steaming water which swirled to depths of five feet in places.—United Press.

DUKE & DUCHESS "GOING TO WORK"

Cherbourg, Dec. 21.—Before boarding the liner Queen Mary here tonight for New York, the Duke of Windsor told Reuters' Cherbourg correspondent: "The Duchess and I are going to work. These days everybody should work."

The Duchess attracted the admiration of spectators as she went up the gangway in a smart tulle suit.—Reuter.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THE WEST

Atlantic Powers Reach Agreement

Washington, Dec. 21.—The Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson, announced today that "substantially complete agreement" had been reached with the North Atlantic powers on what military assistance should be provided to them under the arms aid programme in 1950.

Mr. Acheson told a press conference that although the negotiation of bilateral agreements outlining the conditions under which aid was to be supplied were not yet concluded, "substantially complete agreement has been reached on what the fiscal 1950 funds shall be spent for."

Mr. Acheson said that with the exception of Britain detailed negotiation of bilateral agreements was in progress with all the North Atlantic powers who had requested military assistance.

Discussions with Britain were still at the stage of "general principles."

Arrangements were being made for the provision of United States personnel to individual countries "qualified to assist in the assembly of complicated modern weapons with which many of these countries are not familiar and to help them to learn how to operate and maintain the equipment."

TO ADJUST MISSIONS
Asked about reports of anxiety in Scandinavian countries on the numbers of United States personnel who would be sent under this part of the programme, he replied that he had not heard of such reports. He said the United States would adjust its missions to the desired needs and wishes of the various countries.

Mr. Acheson said: "For the past several weeks the United States Government has been discussing the bilateral agreements with the North Atlantic countries who have requested military assistance. 'With Italy, Norway, Denmark, France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg, these discussions have proceeded from questions of general principles to details of phraseology. 'With respect to the United Kingdom, the discussion is still on general principles. It is essential, in my judgment, to discuss fully and frankly any questions which may be in the minds of other Governments with respect to the way in which the programme will be carried out in advance of the signing of any agreement and the initiation of any programme. 'COMMON SENSE

"This seems to me to be elementary common sense both from our standpoint and from that of the other countries. 'In this connection I understand and appreciate the action of the United Kingdom in coming to us with their worries in advance. It has given me an opportunity to make clear the intentions of this Government. We are now engaged in an exchange of views which represents the sensible, rational way in which governments with a common purpose and common problems reach agreement. 'The framework of the bilateral was laid down by the Congress after public hearings and full debate. I do not think it appropriate to discuss their specific language while the negotiations are in progress. 'When they are signed they will be published and will, of course, be registered with the United Nations. At that time I shall be glad to discuss their terms.'—Reuter.



There's something about a window full of toys: children from Berlin, in Hastings for a three-month stay, get ideas about Christmas.—London Express Service.

Jet Airliners To Come To Hongkong

London, Dec. 21.—The famous De Havilland jet airliner Comet will be used on the Vancouver-Hongkong flight in two or three years' time.

An initial order for two of these aircraft, which are the first jet airliners in the world and two years ahead of anything any other country has produced, has been placed by the Canadian Pacific Airlines.

Negotiations are in progress for the delivery of further aircraft at a later date.

On the Vancouver-Hongkong service the Comet will fly a quarter way round the world with three one-hour halts in 20 hours. The distance is 6,800 miles and stops will be at Anchorage, Alaska, Shemya in the Aleutians and Tokyo.—Our Own Correspondent.

Britain's Austere Food Rationing

London, Dec. 21.—Britain is today the only country, west of the Iron Curtain, with a general rationing scheme still in effect, four years after the end of the war.

Week in and week out the British housewife crowd the shops and grocery stores to buy their weekly rations, which are, in many cases, less than they were at the height of the war.

Planning a meal is still a big headache for British housewives, especially one with a limited budget, for rationed foodstuffs are often beyond her means and a man can, and often does, eat his weekly meat ration at one sitting.

Rationing of certain foodstuffs first started in January, 1940, and today, almost 10 years later, the original butter and bacon ration of four ounces per head per week are still the same.

In 1940 the sugar ration was 12 ounces; today it is eight ounces.

SORRIEST TALE

Meat has the sorriest tale to tell. Meat was first rationed in March, 1940, at one shilling, twopenny worth a week. In March this year it fell to only 10 pence worth.

Today, a housewife gets one shilling, sixpence worth on each buff-coloured ration book.

A Ministry of Food official said recently that it will be many years before Britain returns to its normal pre-war meat consumption.

The only basic foodstuff that has come off the ration since the war is jam. Bread was rationed and potatoes were allocated—rations vary in each district—since the war but unlimited supplies of each are now in the shops.

A Briton today gets the following amount of rationed goods once a week:

Sugar, eight ounces; Meat, one shilling and sixpence worth; Butter, four ounces; Cooking fat, two ounces; Margarine, four ounces; Bacon, four ounces; Cheese, two ounces; Milk, three pints for adults and three and a half pints for children between the ages of five and 18 years; and a pint a day for children under five; Soap, roughly a small tablet a week; Tea, two and a half ounces; Eggs are allocated, about one egg a week in the winter months and between two and three in the summer months.

A Briton also gets 24 points a month to spend. A tin of meat, enough for four people for one meal, costs about 12 points; a pound of rice takes eight points and syrup costs 16 points.

FISH PLENTIFUL
One of the few basic foodstuffs which has never been rationed is fish. Cod herrings and sole are seen on a Briton's table about four or five times a week.

Unlike most European countries, Britain has never rationed coffee. There has always been a plentiful supply of the beans throughout the war and the postwar period.

Generally, such as goose, poultry, partridge and pheasant are not rationed but are extremely expensive and nearly always beyond the means of the average British housewife.

A chicken, for four persons generally costs about 15 shillings. Sweets, chocolates and sugared drops are rationed to four ounces a week—or two small bars of chocolate.

Earlier this year sweets were de-rationed but the demand was so great and the queues at the sweet shops so long that many people got no sweets at all. Rationing was re-introduced after only two months.—United Press.

They Gaze In Wonder

Reds Stalk Nationalists For The K.O. Blow

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—Chinese Red armies, nearing the end of a year in which they have all but blown the Nationalists off the mainland, today stalked their enemy for knockout blows in the West and South.

The radio in the Communist capital of Peking boasted that the armies of General Hu Tsung-nan, the best left to the Nationalists in all China, were being encircled in the Chengtu area. Previous Nationalist reports have indicated, however, that General Hu has extricated the bulk of his 400,000 man armies from the former government capital in the West.

General Hu's troops last week reported moving down the highway from Chengtu to Sikang province. In mountain-bound Sikang, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek proposes to set up a guerrilla base for a hoped-for comeback on the mainland.

The Peking broadcast said Communist troops control 50 miles of the main highway between Chengtu and Sikang, beginning at Pengshan, 55 miles south of Chengtu. Only General Hu's rearwards are still in this area unless the reports of his retreat are unfounded.

In the South, a press report in Hongkong said Red troops were embarked on a mass movement down the Luchow Peninsula.

This is the peninsula that leads to Hainan Island, where remnant Nationalist forces from the debacle in South China have taken refuge.

EASY OBSTACLE

Only three miles of water separates the tip of Luchow Peninsula from Hainan. It would be easy for the Reds to leap this Strait.

The status of Yunnan province, South of Sikang, still was clouded. The Nationalists of their island redoubt of Taiwan announced on Monday they had recaptured Kunming, Yunnan's capital.

Late press reports in Hongkong said the city still was held by forces of warlord General Lu Han, who turned on Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and went over to the Communists on December 9.

The later reports asserted fighting still was in progress in Kunming's outskirts between General Lu's troops and those still loyal to the Nationalist Government of the city.

On Formosa, Mr. K.C. Wu took over the provincial administration as Governor. Mr. Wu, possibly with U.S. blessing, promised a liberal administration.

Formosans, who dislike the mainlanders, were given more power in the provincial government. They were given the Commissions of Civil Affairs, Reconstruction and Agriculture and Forestry as well as 17 of the 25 seats on the Governor's Council. This Council presumably is largely advisory. The Governor wields authority through the Nationalist government, which appoints him.—Associated Press.

Britain & Jap Peace Treaty

Cabinet Discussions

London, Dec. 21.—Top Cabinet Ministers tonight discussed Britain's attitude toward a Japanese peace treaty, an informant disclosed.

This informant also disclosed that senior finance officials of the Commonwealth nations will meet at Colombo at the same time as the Foreign Ministers. They will map Commonwealth needs for dollar purchases, including oil.

The question of a Japanese peace treaty has been under study in both Washington and London for months. The United States State Department is preparing a draft treaty due for completion by the end of the year.

The financial experts who also will meet in Ceylon are to decide on the dollar needs of the entire Commonwealth area.

One of the area's hoaviest dollar drains has been Commonwealth dollar oil. Britain has announced a halt in purchases of all dollar fuel oil imports and a one-third reduction in dollar gasoline exports beginning January 1.—Associated Press.

TWO DIE IN FIRE ABOARD SHIP

Copenhagen, Dec. 21.—Two Danish workers were killed and several others were injured here today when fire broke out on Iceland's new and biggest passenger motorship, the Guldfoss (11,700 tons).

The fire was the second since the ship was launched here on December.—Reuter.

Malaya Terrorists Open Up New Offensive

Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 21.—Terrorists killed nine persons, including three British soldiers, in four ambushes in the past 24 hours. They wounded 20, including five British soldiers.

The Communist attacks appeared to be the start of the concerted offensive threatened by terrorists last week. This morning's bandits ambushed troops and police six miles from Seremban, killing three and wounding five British soldiers. Fighting back, the British forces killed one bandit, wounded five and captured one.

In the Kuantan area of Pahang this morning, bandits ambushed a bus, killing the driver and conductor and wounding two special constables and five passengers, including a pregnant woman. The wounded constables fired back, killing one bandit.

In the Klang area of Johore, a bandit gang on Tuesday ambushed a forestry lorry, killing two policemen and one Malay labourer and wounding six labourers and a Tamil driver special constable.

Also in the Klang area, bandits shot dead a motorcyclist on the main road, then held up a lorry and looted food. This afternoon bandits attacked a police station in a lonely area of Malacca, but there were no casualties.

Last night, in a big attack on Kemayan Estate in the Menangkab area of Pahang, five labourers were abducted.—Associated Press.

EDITORIAL

Dogs & Cats Ordinance

THE new Dogs and Cats Ordinance is, ostensibly, made necessary by the current epidemic of rabies, but the underlying cause is the gross indifference of so many owners of domestic pets to the existing regulations. Injections and segregation treatment can play a part in combatting rabies, but cannot, either severally or together, guarantee the elimination of this dreadful disease. Owners of pets, particularly dogs, are, in the long run, the people most capable of achieving this. Only the closest supervision and the most careful adherence to the regulations on the part of all owners can reduce to the minimum the dangers of infection. Insufficient attention has been paid to this aspect of the rabies epidemic, and it has to be confessed that Government has been forced to introduce stringent and arbitrary conditions largely because of the refusal of sections of the general public to co-operate in giving effect to the regulations previously in force. The powers given, under the new Ordinance, to police officers and veterinary surgeons, are, in the ordinary course of events far too sweeping, but there is plenty of justification for them at this time. The whole tenor of the Bill is to see that dogs are kept under proper control, and that where this is violated, the Authorities shall have the right to punish. Punishment will take two forms—destruction of the animal if it is suspected of being dangerous; fines and imprisonment for owners. The increased penalties for offences such as permitting a dog in public without a muzzle or not being attached to a lead is a welcome sign of Government's awakening to the serious

extent these regulations are, today, being violated. Fines of 25 and 50 dollars are insufficient to deter the careless dog owner, whose foot-loose animal is the most likely to become a rabies contact, and, therefore, to become a menace to the community. The maximum sentences under the new Ordinance are six months imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine. These are not too severe, and if imposed when the Bill becomes law may prove to be the correct deterrent to a persistence in violating the regulations. Nor will there be any disagreement with the contention that, in the interest of public health, it is necessary to make the owner of a dog absolutely liable for a breach of the regulations. We feel that the Ordinance could have safely gone a step further and insisted that there should be a maximum length of lead, for, as we have previously pointed out, while some dog owners are obeying the letter of the law in attaching their dogs to leads, they are violating its spirit by permitting the animals to remain loosely controlled because the leads are so long. No dog can be said to be fully under control if it is at the end of a 10 to 12 foot leash. But in the final analysis it rests upon the Authorities and the Courts as to what extent they are prepared to apply the regulations. Hitherto the blind eye has been turned too willingly towards those who wilfully disobey the law. If the regulations are enforced firmly, dog owners will quickly realise that they cannot be lightly ignored. And if, in fact, all domestic canines can be kept fully under control, there is little doubt that we shall see a rapid decline in the incidence of rabies.

STOP PRESS

Chennault And Willauer Make Application

Before the Chief Justice, Sir Leslie Gibson, in Chambers this morning, Major-General Claire Chennault and Mr. Whitting Willauer withdrew an application to be joined as plaintiffs against the CNAC, but filed a similar application against CATC.

The Chief Justice said he would deliver his decision tomorrow morning.

Mr. H. C. Sheldon, KC, appeared for General Chennault and Mr. Willauer, while Mr. Percy Chen and Mr. Brook Bernacchi were for CNAC and Mr. Percy Chen and Mr. A. J. Clifford for CATC.

Tramway Workers Hold Meeting

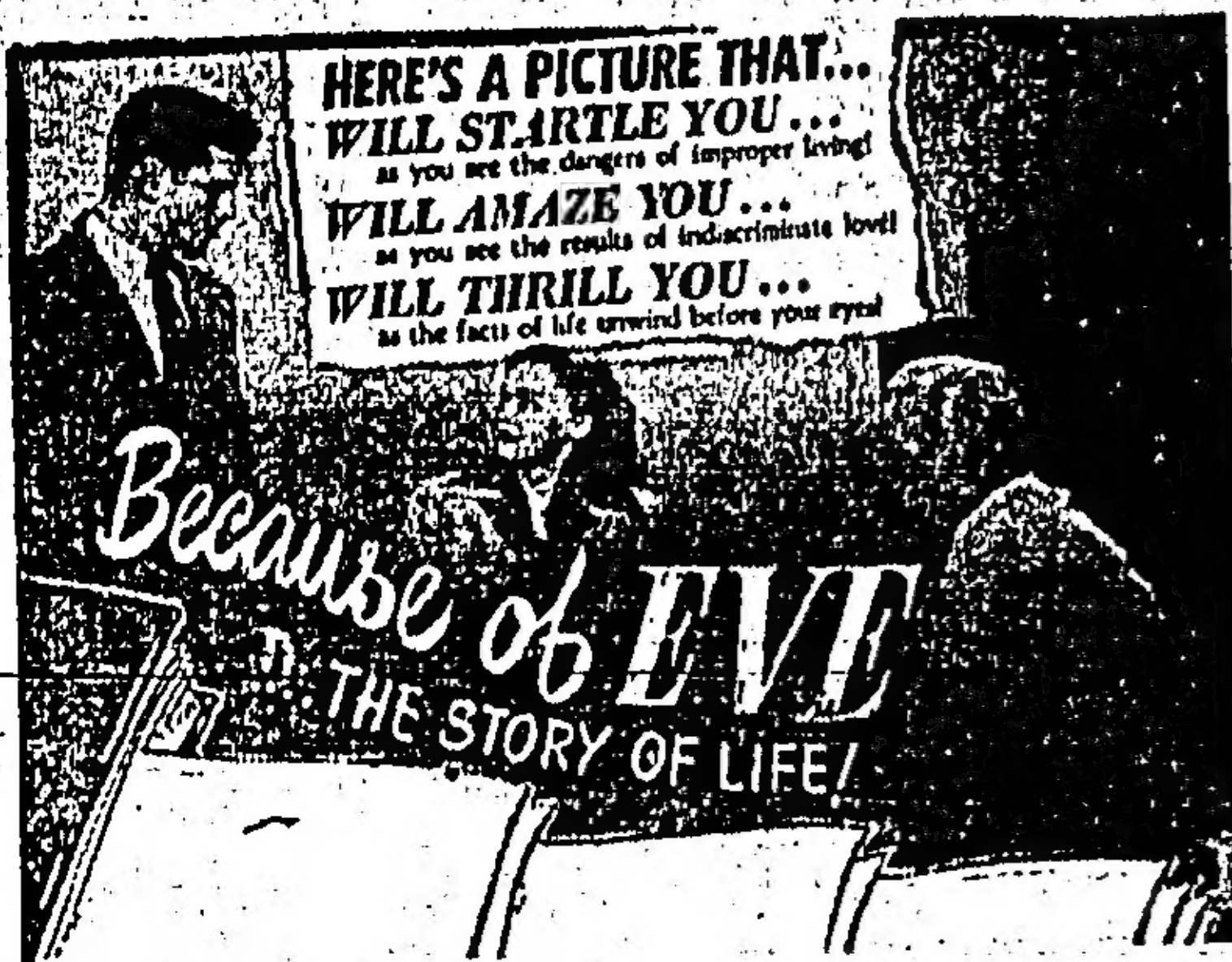
Workers of the Hongkong Tramways held another general meeting on the roof of their union headquarters in Russell Street this morning.

According to the Union this meeting will decide whether to submit an ultimatum to the Company demanding \$90 monthly special allowance for all workers and three other minor demands.

Up to the time of going to press the ultimatum had not been delivered as the meeting was still going on.

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FIRST EPISODE



THE SEA HOUND

DUSTY CRABBE as Captain Silver

WOMANSENSE

Signorina Has Alpine Charms



Hat of the evening is in 100% silk. Alpine fashion worn by Signorina Enrica Buscaglia, 21. Charms include—key to the door, magnet buttons, Indian chief. The signorina is the dance for the Italian foot-baller after the International match against England.

Christmas Sweets For Your Children

by HELEN BURKE

LIGHT sweets are better than rich puddings for children—particularly at Christmas time—the lightest and prettiest sweets are made from colourful table jellies. If you have managed to get jellies with sugar already in them, you will have no sweetening worry. There seems to be plenty of unsweetened jellies about; the snag is sugar—but there is always saccharine to help out.

Here are some suggestions for party sweets that your children will like to see as well as to eat:

Water-lily Pond

FOR four servings, make a pint of greenage or lime table jelly as directed on the packet. Pour into a shallow round dish for two large soup plates. When set arrange halved blanched almonds as "petals" on the surface, with small

rounds of orange peel for the centres.

Peaches In Clover

FOR 4-6, make one pint greenage or lime jelly. Chop it up when set and place in a shallow dish. Place 4-6 halved peaches, cut side up, on top. Put a dab of whipped synthetic cream and a halved glacé cherry in each and add angelica "handles".

Banana Balbs

FOR 5-6 place a round of spongecake in a trifle dish. Cover with milk jelly, made with four tablespoons more liquid than directed, and leave until thick. Cut 3-4 bananas into 6-8 pieces. Stand them in the jelly, trimming the exposed ends to match. Grate a 2oz. bar of milk chocolate and sprinkle it around the "balbs" to represent earth.

Marshmallows

MAKE a strawberry blanc-mange or table cream border mould and a pineapple

or vanilla table jelly and leave to set. Combine four-five marshmallows (cut up with scissors) and quarter pint whipped synthetic cream. Turn out the border mould on to a flat dish, fill the centre with the macaroon mixture and strew the chopped jelly around it. Garnish the centre top with chopped glacé cherries and angelica.

Caramel Mousse

PUT one-two tablespoons sugar and one tablespoon water in an aluminium pan and boil without stirring until it is a rich caramel. Stand the pan on a damp cloth to cool. Add quarter pint water, leave to soak off the caramel; then blend in a good teaspoonful cornflour, bring to the boil and simmer one minute.

Meanwhile mix one heaped teaspoonful gelatine with a scant quarter pint water, then heat through to dissolve, but do not boil. Combine with the cornflour mixture, cool a little, then add a pinch of salt and quarter teaspoonful vanilla essence.

When lukewarm, gently stir in almost half pint evaporated milk. Leave until beginning to set, then whip to almost double the original bulk. Turn into individual moulds to set.

Mock Creams

FOR a substitute for whipped cream, immerse an unopened tin of evaporated milk in a pan of cold water. Bring to the boil and boil for 10 minutes. Leave to cool in the water.

Empty the tin, add a sprinkling of sugar and a few drops vanilla essence and whip to a froth. This is grand for trifles, but, as it tends to run back to milk, it should be prepared and added at the last minute before serving.

For another mock cream: Add a good teaspoonful powdered gelatine to evaporated milk and set, then whip to almost double the original bulk. Turn into individual moulds to set.

—(London Express Service).

More Pleats

THE slim, easy fashions coming in for 1950 use many, many pleats. It is the sharp, knife pleat that may run from tiny size to 1½ inches or more that is fashionable. These pleats have nothing in common with the unpressed pleats of the few seasons. The new ones are best made mechanically, and require the services of professional pleaters... something the home sewers love because it reduces the amount of their own work in dressmaking.

Household Hints

To remove ice cream from rayon clothes: sponge with cold or lukewarm water, then wash in warm soapsuds. For non-washable rayon fabrics, sponge with a good cleaning fluid, let dry, then sponge with cold water.

To save the trouble of melting paraffin when making jelly, place paraffin shavings in the bottom of each sterilised dry glass. Pour the hot jelly on top. The paraffin will melt and rise to the top, taking bubbles out of the jelly and sealing it at the same time.

Further Uses Of Glycerine

By ELEANOR ROSS

WE start off this round-up of the uses of glycerine in the household by complying with the many requests for the formula for preserving leaves.

First, spread the leaves and press them in a pan with alternate layers of fine dry sand which has been heated as hot as the hand can bear. After the sand cools, the leaves are removed, smoothed with a hot iron, dipped in the varnish and allowed to dry in the air. The varnish consists of 11 oz. of gelatin and 9 oz. of pure glycerine. First soften the gelatin by soaking it in cold water and then dissolve it in the glycerine which has been heated to 212 F. When properly prepared this varnish is colourless, and, on cooling, is pliable and wax-like.

Flowers may be preserved for some time by dipping them in this glycerine-gelatin preparation which of course must be liquefied with heat before using. Flowers and leaves may then be handled freely without breaking or crumbling.

For Decorative Metals

Here's a good formula for a protective clear lacquer to be used on decorative metals in the house for the vogue for which is on the increase. Ask your druggist to make up 10 parts of gun sandrac, and 3 parts of resin dissolved in a sufficient quantity of alcohol and one-half part of glycerine. The lacquer is applied with a brush to copper, brass, pewter surfaces to preserve their finish and prevent tarnishing.

If two of your best glasses have stuck together—and it always seems to happen to the prize glassware—drop a little glycerine between them, and after a few minutes they will generally separate without any trouble.

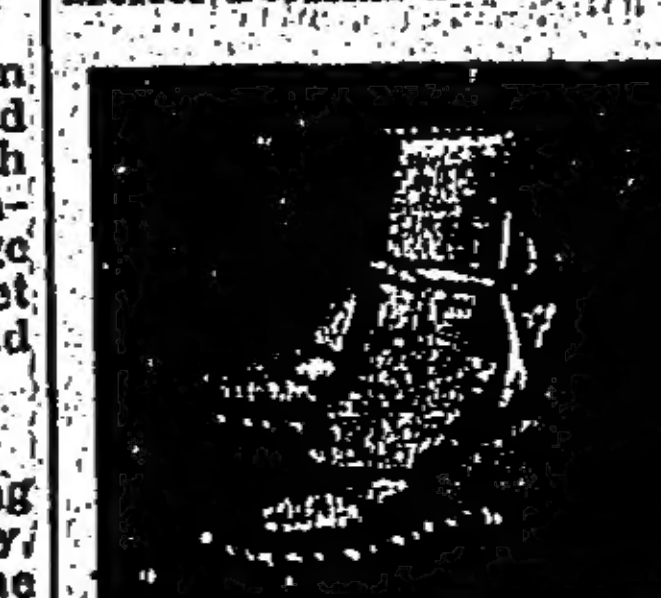
Upholstered furniture can be treated to a good cleaning and brightening in fifty time. Just rub the upholstery with a clean cloth dipped in a solution of one part glycerine, nine parts of water, and one half part of ammonia. It does a particularly fine job of living colour.

If Baby's little flannels are shrunken and stiff through incorrect laundering, try washing them in fluffy soapsuds to which a tsp. glycerine has been added. Rinse in water of the same temperature in which there is a little borax, and hang to dry without wringing. This really works like a charm.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING



They flew to London on a Christmas shopping trip, then flew home again to Amsterdam; Canadian-born Mrs Juliette Harman, and London-born Mrs Meriel Forreman.



—(London Express Service)

Beauty Care of the Arms



Lovely, graceful arms are a beauty asset worth cultivating, says Movie Star Lucille Ball. Many beauty shops give hand and arm massage, she says.

By HELEN FOLLETT

FEW women seem to think that the arms need cosmetic attention, which is a mistake. A bare arm should have consideration at least to inspire the cultivation of a clear skin surface of good texture and pleasing colouring. Even the shape can be changed by corrective exercises. If the arm does not qualify, arm swinging exercises will dissolve fat cells, as they will normalise thin skin. Double your fingers in the palms of your hands, swing high, wide and handsome with plenty of muscle pull. This exercise will help to develop the chest and bust.

In many beauty shops in America there are departments for hand and arm massage. Women who get more than that have found these treatments helpful; they remove discoloured skin cells, refine the surface, make it smooth and attractive to the eye.

These treatments can be given at home. Start with a rousing scrubbing with warm soap suds and a heavy brush, rinse and dry. Get out your massage cream, apply it with flattened fingers from wrist to shoulder, up and down, round and round. Lift the flesh and pinch lightly. While the cream is on, dust on talcum powder, forming a pack. Let it remain on for half an hour, then remove with clear water.

An attractive arm is a lovely asset—one distinctly worth cultivating. Ideal faces and ideal figures are not so common, either; yet see what the modern woman has done for both face and silhouette. No sense in not seeking improvements all along the line of pulchritude. We found out long ago that one can improve upon nature and that it is silly to stay "as is" when one can look better.



Let's Eat
BY
IDA BAILEY ALLEN

Christmas Dinner In Denmark

CHRISTMAS Eve in Denmark is ushered in by a beautiful holiday dinner served at five o'clock. The table is always covered with a big white cloth which forms a suitable background for the small sprays of holly traditionally arranged on it in a lacy pattern. Soft flickering candle light. The centre piece, a big silver bowl of fruit and nuts wreathed in holly and pine—Almost every homemaker in Denmark is the proud owner of a silver fruit bowl, for Denmark produces the most beautiful hand-wrought silver in the world.

Danish homemakers really start to prepare for Christmas the summer before, when they make wonderful jams, jellies and preserves from their native fruits, and many interesting kinds of pickles from home-grown garden produce. The finest of these are set aside for the holidays.

Christmas morning breakfast is late. It includes all sorts of luxuries that can be eaten with or spread on bread: Headcheese; liver pate; salt or smoked herring in many forms; smoked eel; pressed lamb; sardines; ham with scrambled eggs; various kinds of cheese. And of course plenty of bread, butter, Danish pastries and coffee.

Then comes the Christmas church service. Everybody attends, and everybody sings the beloved Christmas carols.

As to dinner on Christmas day, it's late in the afternoon and represents a holiday for the homemaker. For she always cooks enough for Christmas Eve dinner to serve again the next day—a most sensible custom. These busy days it would be a good idea for us to cook enough food at one time for two dinners.

Two-Time Dinner For Tomorrow

Group Fruit Sections
Dark Bread
Roast Boned Shoulder of Fresh Pork
Baked White and Sweet Potatoes
Sweet-Sour White Cabbage
Cranberry-Orange Relish
Pickles
Danish Christmas Apple Cake

All Measurements Are Level

Danish Christmas Apple Cake
Melt ¼ c. butter or margarine with 1½ tsp. sugar in a heavy frying pan. Add 2c. fine crumbs made from dry French bread or zwieback, or a combination of the two. The crumbs should be packed down into the cup. Have prepared 2½ c. well-sweetened sieved apple sauce. Rub a very deep 9" pie plate with butter or margarine. In it put alternate layers of the crumbs and apple sauce. Place in a very slow oven, 225-250 F. and bake 1½ hr. To serve, cool and unmould. Garnish generously with sweetened, stiffly whipped cream, and decorate with figures cut from red jelly and citron.

Drop Fruit and Nut Cookies

Cream together ¾ c. butter or margarine, 1 c. brown sugar, 2 egg yolks, ¼ tsp. vanilla and ¼ tsp. almond extract. Sift together 2 c. cake flour, ½ tsp. salt, and ½ tsp. baking powder. Mix in 1 c. medium-chopped mixed nuts, ½ c. raisins, dates and candied fruit (chopped). Drop by spoonfuls on a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 F. for 10-12 minutes.

—(London Express Service)

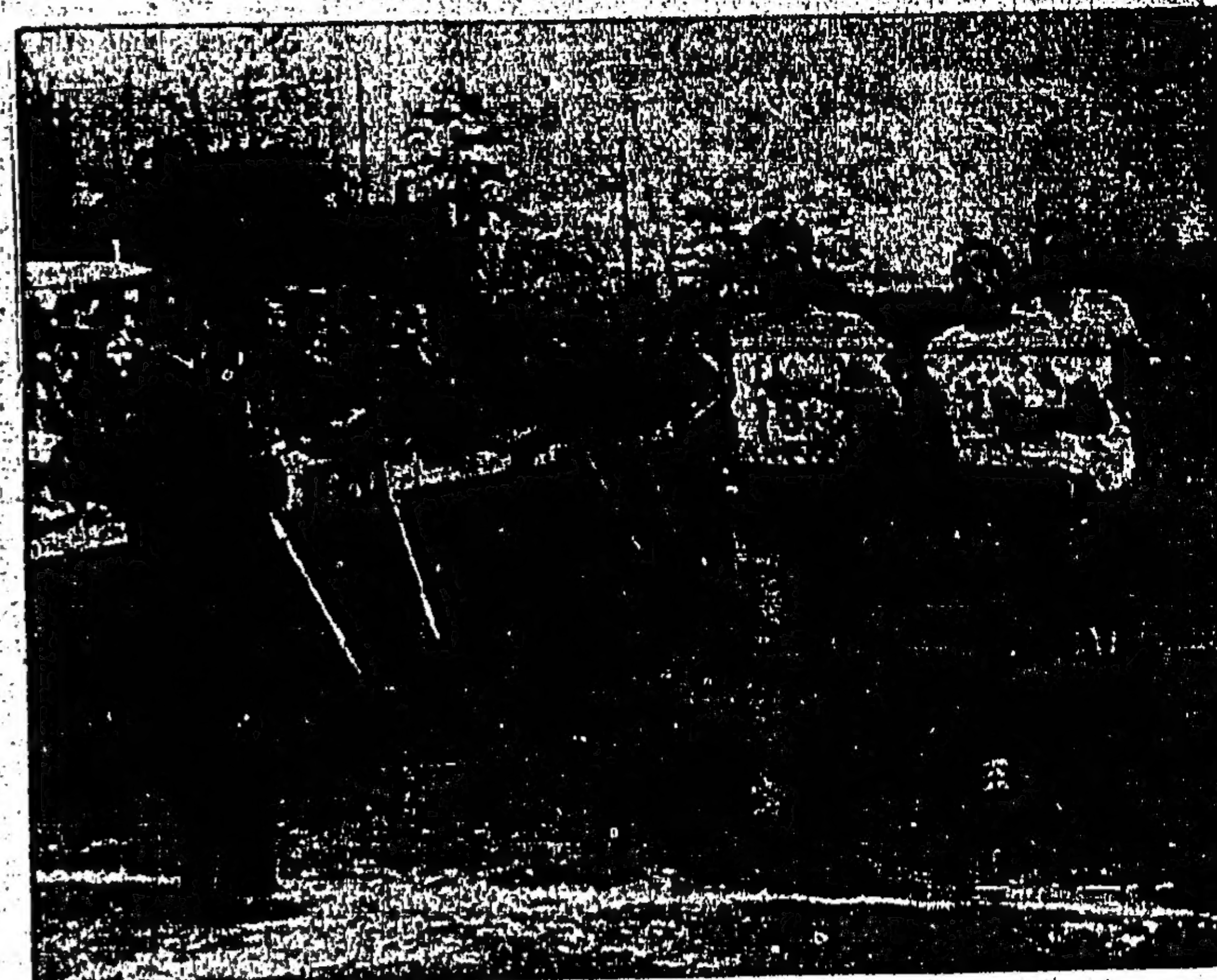
PICTORIAL NEWSFRONT



GETTING READY—Citizens of Oberammergau, Germany, crowd in front of the town hall to read the results of the voting for roles in the Passion Play. Next year's presentation will be the first since 1939 and Anton Preisinger, a hotel owner, was chosen by the 25-member play committee to play Jesus Christ.



MIXED FAMILY—Lindy's Enchantress, a Pekingese, poses in Chicago with her oddly-assorted family. She's taking care of her own two, plus two boxer puppies which are almost bigger than herself. The boxers' mother was unable to nurse them, and the Peke was an able substitute.



WINS RACE—Nearing the end of the freshman course of the 41st annual Inter-collegiate A.A.A.A. cross-country championship at Van Cortlandt Park, N. Y., are, front to back: Carl Joyce, from Georgetown University, who finished first; Tom Vorhees, Georgetown, and William Albers, of Cornell.



GETS MOVIE ROLE—Paralyzed war veteran Arthur Jurado chats with actress Teresa Wright on a movie set in Hollywood. Jurado was chosen from among 32 paraplegic veterans for a role in a film now being made. He has never acted before.



RUNS AGROUND—The British cruiser Ajax, remembered for her battle against the German Graf Von Spee at the start of World War II, lies on mud banks after running aground at the mouth of the Usk River, near Newport. The ship was on its way to the breakers' yard when a propeller fouled a buoy, and a strong wind swung the cruiser on to the mud banks.



NICE GIFT—Barney Pressman, right, president of a clothing store in New York, realised he had a large stock of out-of-style clothing on hand. Here he donates it to Major Roy Barber, Director of the Salvation Army's Men's Social Service, who will see that all the pieces are distributed to the needy.



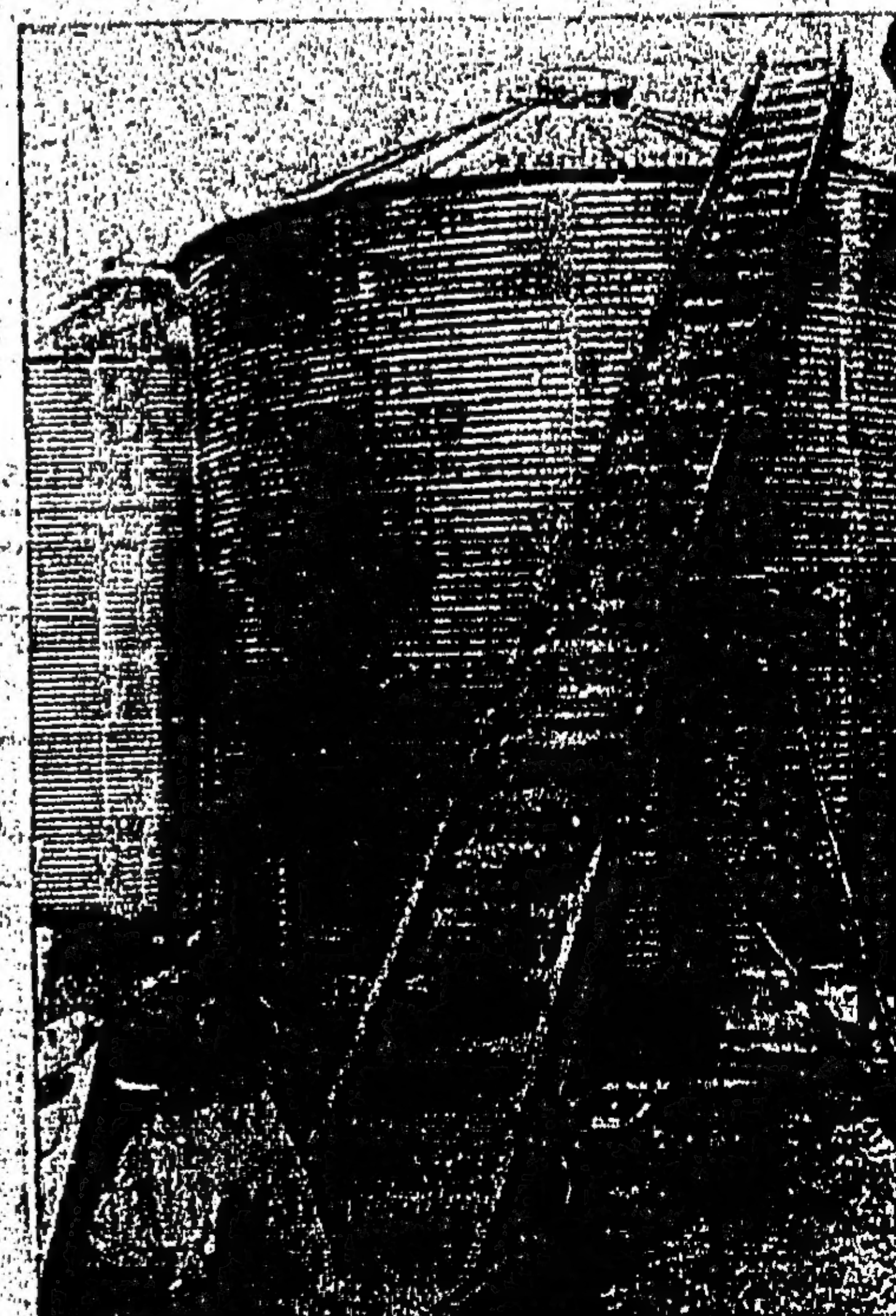
BROUGHT IT ALONG—When little Mary and George Pittalos arrived at New York's LaGuardia Field from the island of Cyprus, in the Mediterranean, they dragged out a bottle of water they had brought. They'll join their father in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.



TOO BAD—While frolicking on a beach in Southern California, actress Ruth Roman encounters a little bathing suit difficulty.



KEEPS UP WITH THEM—This wounded member of HMS Amethyst follows his companions in a mechanical invalid chair as they march through the streets of London following a thanksgiving service.



HARVEST SAVERS—Two boys watch the corn flow into an aluminium grain bin erected at Enterprise, Iowa to store part of this year's big grain harvest. Nearly 26,000 aluminium bins were built with a total storage capacity of 83,000,000 bushels.

LEE THEATRE

AIR-CONDITIONED, OZONIZED AND WARM.
— COMMENCING TO-DAY —
DAILY AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.

HANG ONTO YOUR WALLET... HOLD ONTO
YOUR HEARTS... HERE COME...



ALSO LATEST CAUMONT BRITISH NEWS

COMING ATTRACTION

JOSEPH COTTEN VALLI
ORSON WELLES TREVOR HOWARD

"The Third Man"

AWARDED THE
GRAND PRIX INTERNATIONAL, 1949
at the CANNES FILM FESTIVAL as
THE BEST FILM IN THE WORLD!

SHOWING

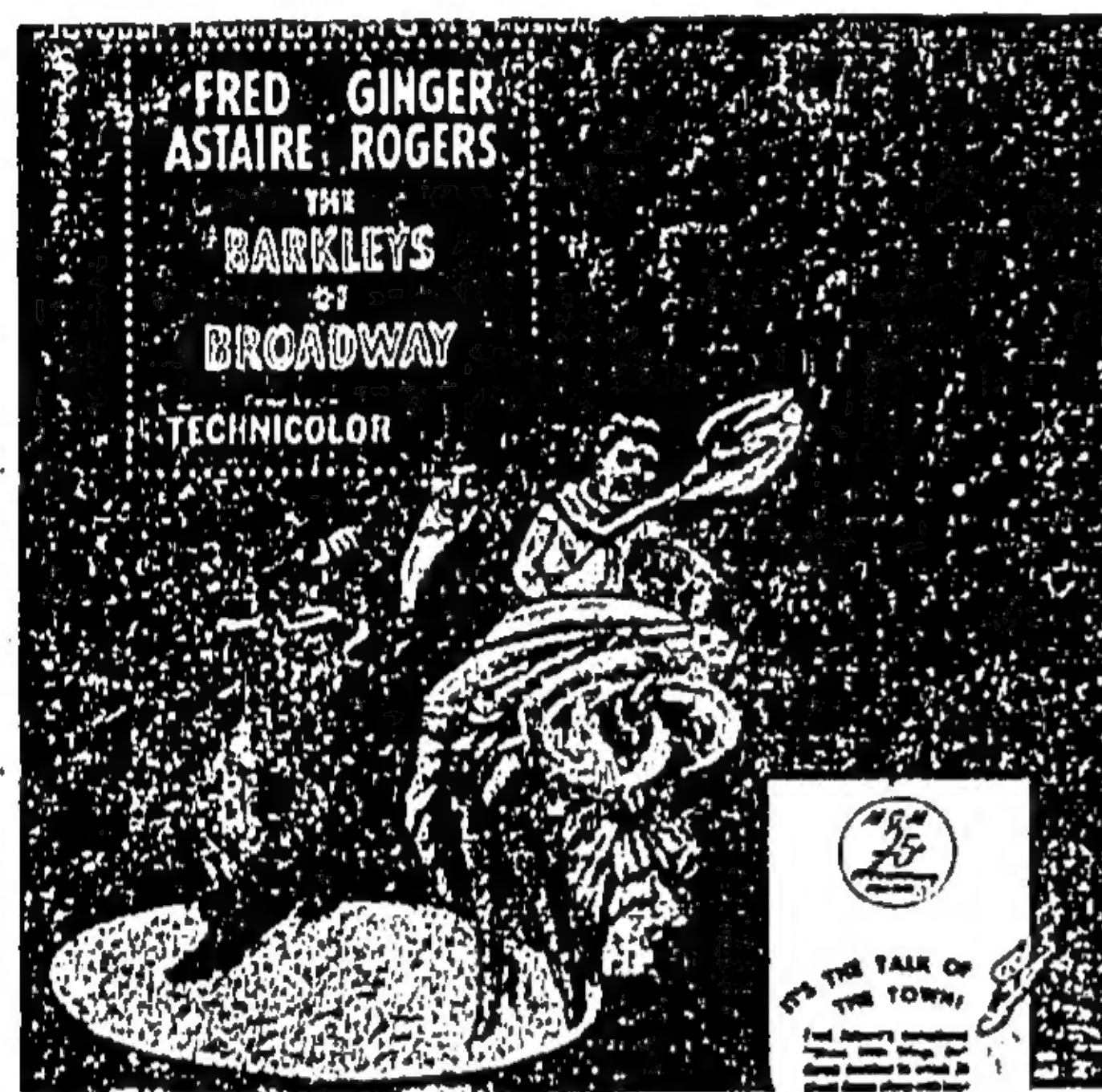
AT 2.30, 5.15,

TO-DAY

7.15 & 9.15

QUEEN'S

Introducing The NEW 'Swing Trot'



ALHAMBRA

KOWLOON

TO-DAY ONLY — BY REQUEST

AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

EXCITEMENT FROM DAWN TO DUSK!



OPENS
TO-MORROW!

M-G-M Technicolor Musical!

"THE BARKLEYS OF BROADWAY"

Fred ASTAIRE • Ginger ROGERS

AIR CONDITIONED

Take Any Eastern Tram Car or Happy Valley Bus

SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.20 & 9.30 P.M.

The Last Outpost of Adventure! ... Where Men Love

To Fight ... And Fight to Love! ... Its Thrilling!



The GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD...

JESUS was profoundly moved by what He learned about His cousin John.

The story was brought down by traders from the capital how John was creating a furor, not only in Jerusalem but in all the country-side. The old-age child of Zachary and Elizabeth had grown in thirty years to be a giant. In early manhood after his father and mother died, the youth had vanished. For years his relatives heard little about him, although there were reports that he lived in a rocky cave in the blatted valley below Jerusalem near the Dead Sea, and that he ate only locusts and wild honey.

Now, suddenly, he had emerged as a public character, and already he was suspect in the eyes of the Temple police. Perhaps that was because he was different from ordinary men. Bronzed arms, upturned, John would stand day after day on the outskirts of towns and shout to the crowds that the time had come for the people to repent of their bad lives.

To people who had neglected and then virtually forgotten the stern ideas of the prophet Isaiah, these words of John had a startling sound.

"Do penance!" he shouted. "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!"

A Cleansing Rite

MORE than one of his puzzled followers had asked John if he were the expected Christ, the promised Deliverer and Saviour of Israel. His answer, repeated around camp fires of reading caravans and over lake shores and cook pots in a hundred towns, was:

"I, indeed baptise you with water. But there shall come one mightier than I, the latchet of whose shoe I am not worthy to loose. He shall baptise you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire!"

It was when he heard these tales of John that Jesus sighed, laid down His carpenter tools, and after a tender farewell to Mary started off alone, on foot, going from Galilee to the wilderness—to see for Himself.

He reached the lower part of the Jordan Valley. Near the bank of the narrow, muddy river He saw a crowd of people in a trap of silence as they harkened to John.

Without difficulty Jesus made His way to the front, presently He stood calmly before John. For the first time since boyhood the cousins were face to face. John, talking, vociferous, sweating with earnestness; Jesus, taller, gaunt and pale, in perfect tranquillity. A long moment and neither spoke, while the crowd watched curiously amid a low buzz of speculation. By that historic meeting, though doubts were later to assail the mind of one—both Jesus and John were sure. They knew their mission; knew, too, that they were doomed men.

In a voice so low that only John could hear, Jesus said that He had come to be baptised by His cousin.

A White Pigeon

WHEN the simple ceremony was over, Jesus, looking up through dripping eyes, saw a white pigeon flying over his head, hovering, pausing with fluttering wings. The bird lighted on His shoulder and in it He knew that the Spirit of God had appeared to Him.

Mary in the watching crowd asserted that they heard a voice from Heaven say: "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."

It was forty days before Jesus again saw John—forty days spent in the wilderness, almost six weeks of privation and temptation, none the less fruitful because He deliberately invited the trial on Himself. Then and only then did Jesus return.

Then came the morning when Jesus and John were to part, never to meet again in this life. That was when John was standing with two friends, a young man with the Greek name of Andrew and the other a good-looking northerner, also called John. These two Galileans rented books in a fisherman's guild at Capernaum, on the inland sea. Good friends they had been since boyhood,

yet no chums were ever more unlike. Andrew was sturdy, hardheaded man, proud of his sound business judgment. On the other hand, John was excitable, imaginative, and full of curiosity.

Two Puzzled Men

THIS Andrew and this John were frowning and puzzled as they stood talking with the Baptist. For some days they had lingered in the neighbourhood, listening attentively to all John had to say, but this was the first time they had ever spoken to him privately.

"You are fishermen from the North Lake?" John asked in surprise. "Why did you travel all this long way—just to listen to me?"

Andrew put it very succinctly. "We earn very little money and most of that goes for taxes. We can't even afford to eat the fish we catch in our own nets. A dog's life it is, better. What can we do? Jump into the sea and end it?" Then someone tells us a man is preaching down south, near Jerusalem and that he has the secret of a happy life. A desperate man will try anything.

And here the Galilean gave a wistful smile, as his companion added: "So we have tried you!"

"And have I helped you much, John?"

At the directness of the question the two fishermen were embarrassed. Before they could find speech the ragged Baptist pointed over their shoulders, where Jesus was walking toward them.

"Look! There is the real Lamb of God!"

Living Reality

THIS was a profound utterance, which his two groping inquirers fully grasped. It was an immense tribute to Jesus. As the Lamb of God, He became the living reality of which the Passover lamb was a symbol in the religion of Israel; by the same token, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah and Jeremiah. It was a statement to stun the two men.

"I saw the Spirit of God descend on him when I baptised him with water," testified John. "He it is who baptises with the Holy Ghost. This is the Son of God!"

There was no mistaking the urgency in the Baptist's words. He might even mean that this was the Messiah! More, he prodded the young men to follow this stranger, if they wanted to learn the true meaning of life.

With hasty and grateful glance the Galileans hastened after the little figure. At the sound of overtaking footsteps Jesus slowed down and looked over His shoulder, then He turned and faced them. He laid a hand on Andrew's shoulder and smiled at John.

"Looking for someone?" He asked. His winning manner told them that somehow He understood their plight—disheartened men, almost completely discouraged. Jesus, looking through space and time, could foresee the fate of this earnest young Andrew—one day to be tied like a letter "X" to a blazing cross; that would be in Fairs. The future of John, too, who, in old age, was to behold visions and write the Book of Revelation.

He Needed Helpers

TO this pair of confused men Jesus spoke with bold directness, explaining that He was planning a tour of all the Palestinian region—a long series of roadside discourses to the people, trying to answer just such questions. He would need helpers immediately, but

He did not want hasty enthusiasts who might abandon Him just as easily. Before inviting them to be the first to join His mission He would require long discussions and debate with them; days of sharp questions—many as they could think up. He insisted that they must use their brains; He would not accept obsequious assent to His ideas but logical, innermost conversation, because He was not merely asking them to give Him a part of their time. He needed their lives. Their souls. So they must make sure. In the end, if they believed in His message, they could join together and look for other disciples.

But after that greeting Jesus changed the subject. He proposed that they set out together and He would explain His message to them during the journey; since they were all natives of Galilee province, they would all walk home. To this the three were glad to agree. But the long trek up the stony northern roads had hardly begun when their number began to grow. The first recruit was a friend of Andrew, a wayfarer like himself with a Greek name, Philip, whom they overtook on the highway. Philip not only agreed to join the party and hear about the new teaching and the plans for spreading them, but he offered to try to enlist another friend.

A Wedding Feast

WHEN, with his five new followers, Jesus came back home to Nazareth, He found His own household in a happy dither. It happened that a daughter of friends of Mary was getting married. The family lived in the village of Cana, Nathanael Bartholomew's home town, and Mary was planning to go over to help in serving the feast.

She suggested they all come with her to the wedding. So although the newcomers were a little weary, they all walked five miles more down the highway from Nazareth until toward sunset they came into Cana of Galilee.

Jesus did not often attend parties of this kind. He was too thoughtful, too studious, too solitary for such festivities. But tonight He had a happy time. He and the five disciples put aside all their intricate discussions and enjoyed themselves like everyone else at the happy affair. The fun was at its height when Mary beckoned to her son.

Quietly the mother whispered a story of their hosts' sudden embarrassment. More guests had come than had been expected. Jesus and His five friends among them—and now the wine was about to give out just when the festivities were at their peak; the caterer was in despair.

"I want more wine!" squealed one curly-haired guest, holding a large, wide-mouthed goblet—a beaker which he turned upside-down.

Jesus took His mother's hand, his face full of a meaning tender and intimate. There was a note of challenge in His voice as He addressed her in the respectful phrase of that day.

"Woman! What is that to me? And to you? My hour is not yet come."

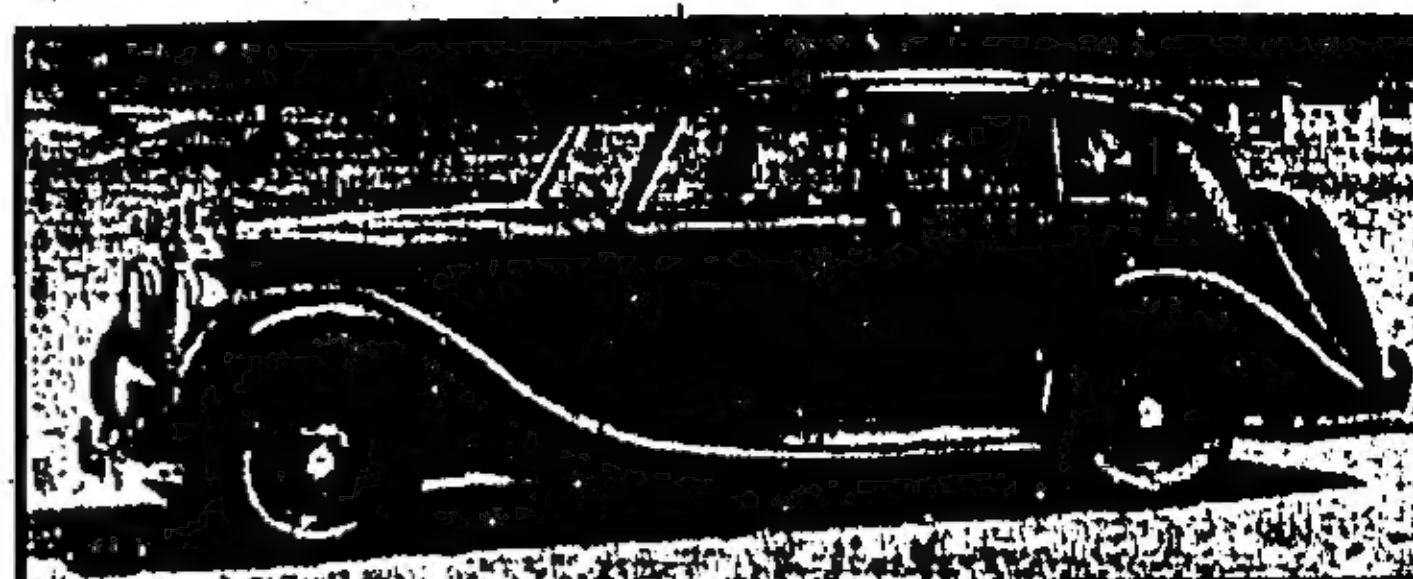
Unlimited Power

ALL around was song and laughter. In the corner where mother and son talked there had come suddenly, startlingly, one moment of significance.

Jesus embraced him enthusiastically, exclaiming: "You are Simon, son of Jonah! But you shall be called Peter."

(Continued on Page 5)

The New Rolls Has Eighteen Push-Buttons



Its tests have lasted for 10 years

Motoring Reporter

THE new Silver Wraith Rolls-Royce I tested recently had no fewer than 18 control buttons, excluding radio. Passengers had six, two for lights and four for raising and lowering the glass partition.

Among the driver's was one showing petrol and oil levels on the same gauge with the same needle; alternate finger-pushing showed the readings electrically.

And just below the polished wooden instrument panel my left foot pressed down a thin lever: a shot of oil was passed to all important chassis parts.

On the road my right foot touched the brake with no more than finger-pressure. Then the two-ton Mulliner sedan-de-ville, 17ft. long, seating seven, came promptly and evenly to rest.

A servo motor on the gearbox had done the brake-pressure work for me. Purchase tax—£2,154.

One of the most expensive cars in the world? It cost £6,029 n. gd., with purchase tax. But it was odd to realise the chassis cost £2,035 yet the purchase tax total on the entire car was £2,154 n. gd.

The 204 h.p. six-cylinder is one of the new in the R.R. range—and 10 years old.

It was designed before the war; a test car did 20,000 miles on European motor roads before a shot was fired, and the engines have been used in buses and carriers over 1,000,000 miles. This is their usual "secret test" policy.

18 miles to gallon. The car had not a "Silver-stone" turn of speed, although, I found, it had stability and handiness shaming no trials "special" on twisting and hilly routes north of London.

On the flat, 30 in first, over 50 in second, 70 in third, and 83 m.p.h. in top were reached promptly. The valve gear was heard at maximum revolutions.

Consumption worked out around 18 miles to the gallon on normal running. The body was mounted on 12 rubber points; so quiet-running was the model that a friend, trying it out, was still in third gear when thinking top was engaged.

It did not like the way the three-spoke steering wheel was inclined to kick when one of the

★ ★ ★

A new Hillman Minx is out. No alteration in price or look, but the engine has been bored out to give 10.4 instead of 9.8 h.p.

It gives more pull on hills and better acceleration, plus top speed 4 m.p.h. faster. Miles to the gallon figure is reduced by one.

I think the change is welcome.

(London Express Service)

Children's Records For Christmas

By Robert Tredinnick

FOR the young and very young, Margaret Eaves and Richard Aubrey sing 18 Nursery Rhymes on three records interpreted with complete simplicity to delightful accompaniment. (Orion NR. 1-3.)

Billy Milton gives a taste of the King's Theatre, Hammer-smith, pantomime singing Higgle, Piggle, My Son John, and Another Day with clarity and charm. (HMV BD.1262.)

For older and musically inclined children there is a first-rate recording of Roger Quilter's Children's Overture, played by Sidney Torch and his Orchestra. (Parlophone E.11469.)

A well-presented potted Cinderella, delightfully in verse with music is offered by Ann Stephens, Franklin Englemann, supporting cast and orchestra. (HMV C.3930.)

(London Express Service)

THIS JELLY MAY LEAD US TO HOME-GROWN GRAPEFRUIT, PEACHES AND EVEN LEMONS

The CHAPMAN PINCHER Column

A GARDENER nipped

off a newly opened tomato flower, stuck its half-inch stalk into a slab of jelly, and when he looked at it a month later it had grown into a fully ripe tomato.

A tap-room tale? No. So true and easy to repeat that the gardener, who is also a scientist, has published a full report of how he did it.

Jelly-fed tomatoes are as full-flavoured as the naturally-grown fruit, and have the advantage of being seedless, he claims.

Formula for the jelly discovered after much trial and error: mineral salts, sugar, vitamin B1, a substance called

* To forestall complaints from those who like the Food Ministry—maintain that the tomato is not a fruit but a vegetable, botanically it is a fruit similar in structure to a gooseberry. It is a vegetable only in the sense that it is neither animal nor mineral.

Cysteine, and a synthetic acid, all mixed in a jelly base made from seaweed.

Object of the experiment, which was carried out by DR. J.F. NICHOL at the California Institute of Technology, was simply the scientific one of seeing what would happen. But it may lead to important commercial application.

Experiments are under way to see whether it works with grapefruit, peaches, and lemons. If it does these and other semitropical fruits might be grown on a big scale in Britain—from blossoms gathered from outdoor trees and ripened on greenhouse trays.

Support for the claims made by German concentration camp doctors that the body's internal temperature can fall by as much as 20 degrees Fahrenheit without causing death comes from a young London physiologist, DR. GRIFFITH FUGHI, of the Hammersmith Hospital.

Whereas the Germans made their measurements on prisoners, kept for hours in ice, Fugh has used himself as guinea-pig.

He thrust a thin wire thermometer through the thick muscles below his elbow, then plunged his arm in cold water. Within 20 minutes the temperature within the muscles fell 18 degrees.

Before this doctors believed that a drop, anywhere within the body, of just a few degrees below the 98.4 etched on their thermometers was a sure sign of illness.

Choosy Oysters

* TO A HUNGRY oyster lying shell-agape in Whitstable's muddy waters any microscopic creatures wafted into its mouth should be acceptable, biologists used to believe.

It seemed impossible that such a business mollusc could discriminate between the minute items on its variable menu.

Now experiments have proved that the oyster is in fact a very choosy feeder.

Scientists tried to fool some oysters into swallowing yeast cells mixed with similarly sized—some 5,000th of an inch long—but more palatable food particles.

The oysters extracted the food and rejected the yeast every time.

Chickadee?

* A SCHEME to change the names of some of Britain's better known birds has been put forward by front-rank ornithologist and high-level civil servant E.M. NICHOLSON.

Few should oppose his suggestions that the song-thrush should officially take up the older name of throistle, or that the hedge-sparrow might more generally be called the dun-nock.

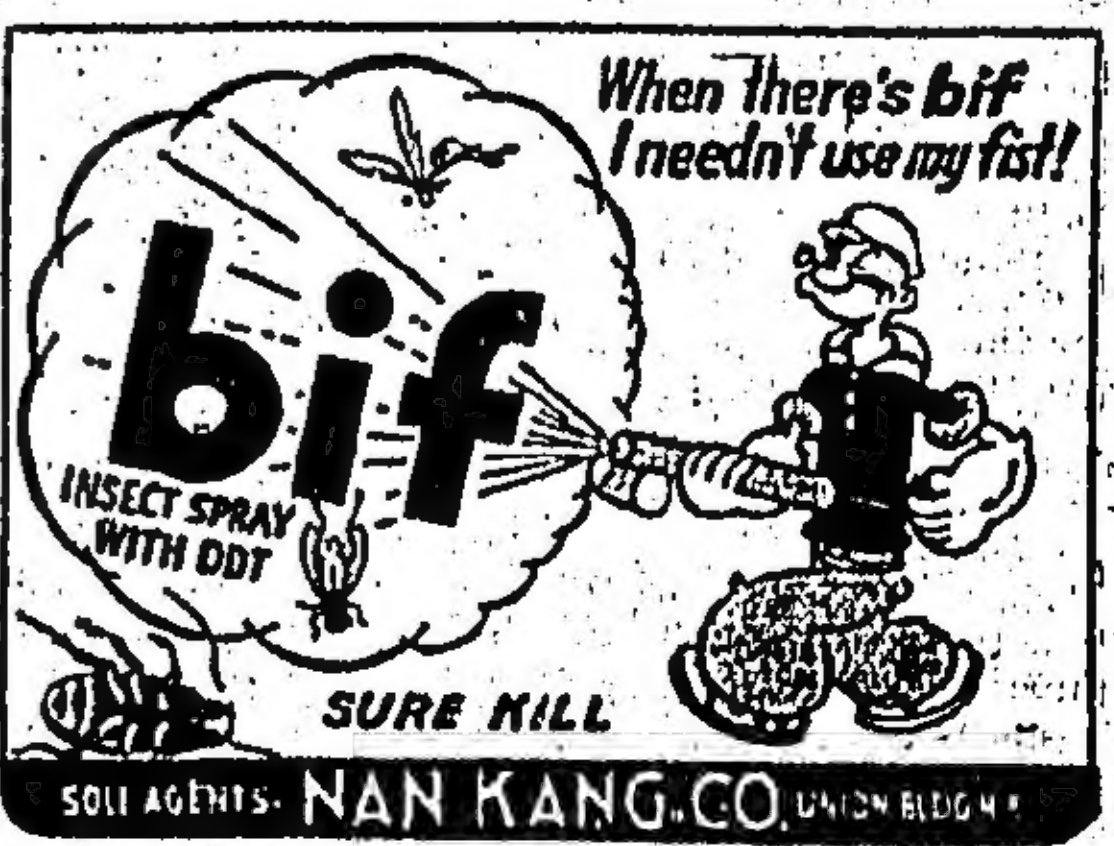
But I foresee little support—save from fans of the late W.C. FIELDS—for his new title for the willow-tit. He wants it called the little chickadee.

(London Express Service)

NANCY

Weather Or Not

By Ernie Bushmiller



Flags Out For Stalin Behind Iron Curtain

70th BIRTHDAY OF "THE SAVIOUR OF HUMANITY"

London, Dec. 21.—All over the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Communist China the flags were out today for Joseph Stalin. It was the 70th birthday of the shoe-maker's son who has ruled all the Russias for a crucial quarter of a century.

The Greatest Story Ever Told

(Continued from Page 4)

Scene for all the rest of history—a moment in which He, the son, and she, the mother, were partners. Do you realize, He was really saying to Mary, what it will mean if do as you ask? You are asking me to show before the eyes of men and women, merely for the success of this convoluted affair, the unlimited power of Almighty God? If I do what you ask, if I show this power, do you know what will happen? The story will fly over the land. All privacy, all quiet, all further time of preparation will be gone. My ministry must begin immediately. And when that happens, I take my first step—and you go with me—in the cross. All this that wedding guests may have more to drink?

Both knew what it meant. Their handclasp tightened; then she turned away, and went to the waiters, and told them: "Whatever He tells you to do—do it!"

Jesus turned and walked to the back of the room. There he found the six stone water pots which were a part of the furnishings of every well-appointed home where frequent religious purifying ceremonies had to be held. beckoning the attendants, Jesus asked them to fill the jars with water. Puzzled but polite, they did as He requested, filling the pots to the brim. Next, at His direction, they dipped up some of the fluid in a ladle. Then they screamed and shouted. The colour had changed! The water was red! Indeed, it was no longer water at all—it was wine!

The hired caterer rushed up, tasted the wine, glared around him furiously and swaggered up to the bride's father. What he wanted to know, was happening here? Any sensible man served the best wine at the beginning of the feast and then, when everybody had had plenty to drink, he would serve the inferior stuff. But this wine was the best the steward had ever tasted in all his forty years as a caterer in Galilee.

Soon everybody in the room was talking about the wonderful wine, but Jesus and His disciples, in deep, reflective silence, were already walking back to Nazareth.

TO BE CONTINUED TOMORROW

LIMITED WAR CRIMES AMNESTY

Paris, Dec. 21.—A bill to grant an amnesty to certain classes of people convicted of collaboration with the enemy during the war was adopted by the French Council of Ministers today.

At the same time, the bill provides that people defending war crimes or collaboration with the enemy in public speeches or in print shall be liable to imprisonment.

The amnesty will be automatic for minors sentenced to less than three years' imprisonment and for anyone sentenced to less than 10 years' deprivation of civic rights.

Other people condemned by the special anti-collaboration courts may be granted amnesty by decree. This applies to Alsians and Lorrainers who joined the German armed forces, but not to spies or anyone whose acts exposed members of the French Resistance to torture, deportation or death.

Since the Liberation, the special courts have pronounced 2,700 death sentences, 800 of which have been carried out. Mr. Pierre-Henri Teitgen, Minister of State for Information, disclosed today.

A further 4,400 offenders were sentenced to death in their absence. The special courts also passed 3,000 sentences of hard labour for life, 12,000 of hard labour for lesser terms, 2,000 of solitary confinement and 25,000 of imprisonment.

The civil chambers of the special courts, which tried lesser charges and could only pass sentences of loss of civil rights, passed 40,000 sentences but cancelled 9,000 of them for services rendered to the Resistance—Reuter.

The hands played, the people danced. In every capital of every Communist country there were ceremonial meetings to give politicians the opportunity of paying tribute to Stalin, the "man of steel."

And from every radio set boomed the voices of announcers reading the thousands of words in praise of the Soviet leader which had been printed in the morning newspapers.

Of news bulletins from 30 countries heard in London today only two made no mention of the birthday. These two broadcasts were from Vatican City and from Belgrade, the capital of Marshal Tito's Yugoslavia.

In Moscow, according to Tass messages received in London, the main feature of the day's celebration was a big meeting at the Bolshoi Theatre.

Delegates from all over Russia and from other countries were present, and each in turn made a speech in praise of Stalin.

MAO'S SPEECH

Among them was Mr Mao Tse-tung, the Chairman of the Chinese Communist Government.

The chief birthday gift of the Soviet people was a promise to break output records. From elsewhere train-loads of presents ranging from motor-cars to silk stockings have been rumbling through East Europe to the Kremlin for days. They are being displayed in a Moscow museum.

Some of the birthday epithets had to be held. Beckoning the attendants, Jesus asked them to fill the jars with water. Puzzled but polite, they did as He requested, filling the pots to the brim. Next, at His direction, they dipped up some of the fluid in a ladle. Then they screamed and shouted. The colour had changed! The water was red! Indeed, it was no longer water at all—it was wine!

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TO BE CONTINUED TOMORROW

of Eastern Germany, Dr Wilhelm Pieck, at a birthday ceremony in East Berlin tonight.

Rockets and fireworks were exploded when the Mayor of East Berlin, Herr Fritz Ebert, announced the re-naming of the street in which the celebrations took place from Frankfurter-Allee to Stalin-Allee.

PEKING PARADES

In China street dancing and formal parades throughout the Chinese Communist capital of Peking highlighted the celebrations.

In Moscow itself searchlights tonight picked out a giant effigy of Stalin in a Marshal's uniform, suspended from balloons a thousand feet above the Kremlin and Red Square.

The red-trimmed uniformed figure dominated the night sky over the Soviet capital and could be seen from all parts of the city.

Millions of small red flags fluttered over buildings while thousands of red banners proclaimed "Velikomu Stalinu" "Glory To The Great Stalin."

Slogans were picked out with millions of electric light bulbs. Thousands of portraits of Stalin all over the city were also illuminated, throwing a warm glow over the snow-paved streets.

In many cases Lenin's portrait is beside that of Stalin. Sometimes four portraits—Mark, Engels, Lenin, Stalin—are displayed side by side.

A message from Paris says that Communist Deputies in the French National Assembly rose to their feet and shouted "Long Live Stalin" when the Communist Deputy, M. Waldeck Rochet, referred to Stalin's 70th birthday at the end of a speech in the budget debate.

The incident lasted about a minute.

It is reported from New York that Mr Trygve Lie, the United Nations Secretary-General, sent birthday greetings to Marshal Stalin.

The contents were not disclosed. A spokesman said that it was a "personal message"—Reuter.

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TO BE CONTINUED TOMORROW

TO BE CONTINUED TOMORROW

Orchids For The Duchess



Wearing a new ermine cape, and carrying a bouquet of orchids, the Duchess of Kent recently attended the Lifeboat Ball of the Savoy, London. In aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, the ball was attended by 300 guests. Mr Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., presented a score of raffle prizes before the evening ended—but the Duchess had no luck.—London Express Service.

British Leaders Thrash Out Labour Problems

London, Dec. 21.—At three important meetings today Cabinet Ministers, industrialists and trade union chiefs thrashed out plans to boost Britain's production drive and keep her workers happy.

Meeting No. 1 was held between Mr Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, who is the Government's acknowledged master-mind in labour problems, and the Labour Minister, Mr George Isaacs, and officials of the British Employers' Federation.

The big topic was how new incentives could be given to workers and employers to encourage them to top all previous production.

A statement after the meeting said that Mr Bevin had asked the employers for their cooperation in securing increased production and the employers gave an assurance that they would do all in their power.

Meeting No. 2—The General Council of the Trade Union Congress, representing 8,000,000 workers, approved a full statement on wages policy, which will be discussed by the Executive of unions at a private conference here on January 12.

Some powerful sections of the trade union movement oppose the call by the TUC for restraint in wage claims until 1951.

Meeting No. 3—Trade union chiefs and representatives of the Employers' Federation met in the role of the Joint Executive Committee which advises the Minister of Labour, Mr Isaacs, on policy.

They discussed hours of work in relation to output.—Reuter.

RUSSIA'S "MARITIME AMBITION"

Admiral Sherman Gives Details

Boston, Dec. 21.—Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, Chief of United States Naval Operations, said in a prepared speech here today that there was "ample evidence" of a reawakening of Russian "maritime ambition."

He said Russia had more cruisers in active service than the United States, and that Soviet shipbuilding capacity was reported to be double its 1940 level.

Modern cruisers built in Soviet shipyards were heavy ships of high speed armed with a standardised rapid-firing, high velocity 7.1-inch triple turret battery, he said.

He placed the total number of Soviet cruisers at 14. The United States now had 13 cruisers in active service and 60 more in its "mothball fleet".

Of the laid-up United States vessels, 32 are light cruisers.

Admiral Sherman gave the Soviet fleet's known strength as three old battleships, 14 cruisers, 110 destroyer types, and about 270 submarines.

According to available information, Russia has no aircraft carriers.—Reuter.

Christmas Plans At Sandringham

London, Dec. 21.—Bedrooms are being prepared for more than 20 Christmas guests at Sandringham House, the country residence of the King in Norfolk.

His Majesty will broadcast from his study at 3 p.m. GMT on Christmas Day, and there will be a small family party in the evening.—Reuter.

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Creation Of European Political Authority

Council Of Europe's Report To OEEC

Strasbourg, Dec. 21.—The General Affairs Commission of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe tonight finished its three-day discussions on the means of creating a European political authority by sending a report on the subject to the OEEC and the Consultative Commission of the Brussels Pact Powers.

Replies are called for by early January.

The next meeting of the General Affairs Commission will be held in February and it is learned that it will have a four-point agenda before it. These four points are as follows:

(1) The role and power of the Committee of Ministers; whether it shall become an executive organ for the Council of Europe or be transformed into an Upper Chamber or Senate.

(2) The evolution of the Consultative Assembly towards its final metamorphosis as a legislative body covering all economic and political matters except defence.

(3) The responsibility of the proposed Executive before the Assembly.

(4) The duties of the Permanent Commission and its possible metamorphosis into an executive body or a parliamentary body working in collaboration with the Executive.

BRITAIN'S POSITION

The Commission tonight unanimously adopted a proposal calling on the President of the Assembly, the Belgian statesman, M. Paul-Henri Spaak, asking him to request the British Government to call Commonwealth talks with Council of Europe representatives present so that the Commonwealth would define exactly its attitude to Britain's present and future participation in the Council.

The talks would be both economic and political.

Mr Hugh Dalton (Great Britain), questioned about the Commission's proposal, said that Britain's attitude to the Council did not depend on the Commonwealth, but that the proposal emphasised the respect of the British representatives for Commonwealth opinion.

Mr Dalton also said here tonight that the Council of Europe would soon have a pre-fabricated home.

He said he thought that the Committee of Ministers would soon approve a plan to build a 'prefab' in Strasbourg which would be a temporary home for the Council and its Commissions.—Reuter.

Two Captains Die At Sea

Hamburg, Dec. 21.—The Norwegian motorship Rindfrost and the Finnish steamer Virgo radioed this morning that their shipmasters had died at sea.

The Rindfrost is owned by Skips A. S. Frostfart in Oslo. She is on her way from Oslo to Hamburg.

The Virgo is owned by Finska Anot Akties in Helsinki. She is also bound for Hamburg.

The cause of the death in both cases is not yet known.—Reuter.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T. 8.00, "Hongkong Calling"—Programme Summary: 8.05, Children's Christmas Half Hour—Presented by Elizabeth Anne (Studio); 8.30, Le Demi-Heure Francaise (Studio); 7.00, World News and News Analysis (London Relay); 7.15, Sports Review (studio); 7.30, "Variety Band Box"—From the Cambridge Theatre, London (BBC7B); 8.00, "From the Editorials" (London Relay); 8.10, "It's Dancing Time"—with the Dance Orchestra of the Royal Air Force; 8.40, "At the Opera"—Verdi's "Rigoletto" Acts 2 and 3. Principals, Chorus and Orchestra of La Scala, Milan, conducted by Carlo Sabajno; 9.40, Andre Kostelanetz and His Orchestra; 10.00, Radio Newsworld (London Relay); 10.15, Weather Report; 10.30, "The Making of a Play"—Lighting, Dressing and Decor" (BBC7B); 10.35, "Thursday Serenade"—A Programme of Continuous Music, Arranged by Betty Brown; 11.00, "Both Lullies and Sweet Music"; 11.15, Weather Report, World and Home News from Britain. (Recorded London Relay); 11.30, Close Down.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



George, will you explain to him why he ought to pray that Santa will be good to the people he doesn't like, too?

Divorce Appeal Rejected

Miami, Florida, Dec. 21.—Florida's State Supreme Court has rejected an appeal by Nancy Oakes De Marigny, daughter of the late Sir Harry Oakes, Canadian gold millionaire, to have her husband's divorce from his first wife declared invalid.

Mrs De Marigny had claimed that her marriage to Count Alfred De Marigny in May, 1942, was void because his 1937 divorce was fraudulently obtained.

The Court ruled that the question of the validity of the divorce could not be raised by a third party.—Reuter.

READY FOR THE ELECTION

London, Dec. 21.—The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, was told at a meeting of Labour leaders here today that the Party machine is "keyed up and ready for a general election" any time from now on.

The National Executive Committee of the Labour Party reported to him on election preparedness as a result of surveys of public opinion throughout Britain.

Mr Attlee's secret date of the general election, however, still remained undivulged.—Reuter.

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—And then their guns fired a birthday salvo



Trotting through Bryanston Square to Hyde Park: the King's Troop of the Royal Horse Artillery on the way to fire a salute to celebrate the King's 54th birthday. (London Express Service.)

INDIA PREPARES FOR REPUBLICAN ELECTIONS

New Delhi, Dec. 21.—General elections in India under the new Constitution will be held in late 1950 or early 1951, according to India's Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr Satyanarain Sinha.

The Minister announced in Parliament that the electoral rolls for the forthcoming elections had already been printed in the East Punjab, while in West Bengal, Madras, Bihar, Orissa and Coorg, they were being printed.

In West Bengal, general elections to the provincial legislature will be held early in 1950, in accordance with the decision of the Indian National Congress Parliamentary Board.

The decision of the Congress Parliamentary Board followed the "fact-finding" visit of the Indian Premier, Pandit Nehru, to West Bengal last July.

Pandit Nehru recommended fresh elections to the people of West Bengal can have an opportunity to bring about political and administrative stability in the province.

Elections in other Indian provinces will be held under the new Republican Constitution of India in the winter of 1950/51, unless delayed by unforeseen circumstances.

The consensus of opinion in the country is that the general elections should not be unduly delayed.

ELECTORAL ROLLS

The Minister stated that the appointment of an Election Commission is under the consideration by the Government of India.

Under India's new Republican Constitution, to be inaugurated on January 26, all elections, provincial and central, should be supervised and controlled by an Election Commission.

The Commission shall consist of an Election Commissioner, assisted by a number of provincial commissioners, appointed by the Indian President.

The electoral rolls, based on the principle of adult franchise, are expected to carry the names of about 180,000,000 voters of India.

In the Indian Constitution, it is laid down that no person shall be ineligible for inclusion in voters list on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.

Elections to legislatures on communal principle and separate electorates have been abolished under the new Constitution, since their retention is repugnant to the principle of "secular state" to which New India is wedded.



"I was going to mention it, but I was afraid it might be a new fad."

Menzies Outlines Policy

Canberra, Dec. 21.—Australia's future and the hope of world peace lie in closer co-operation between America and the British Empire, the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Menzies, said today in his first formal interview since taking over Australia's new right wing coalition government.

The handsome, grey-haired Prime Minister sat in the same simply-furnished office that he occupied as Prime Minister from 1939 to 1941 and told the United Press that Australia wanted closer co-operation with America, not out of wartime friendship, but out of real mutual understanding.

"The more we develop the economic resources of the British Empire, the more we shall be capable of buying and selling with the United States," he said. "We do not believe there is any inconsistency between maximum development of Empire countries and maximum economic contacts with the United States."

CONSULTATION WELCOME

"You may take it that on all matters concerning our political, financial and general economic relationships, my Government will at all times welcome consultation with the United States on the highest level."

"I think it is vital to the United States that we should become as strong as possible," said Mr Menzies.

He declined to say whether he would negotiate a trade treaty with the United States, terming that a "ministerial matter," nor would he comment on a possible dollar loan.

Mr Menzies also praised the Marshall Plan.—United Press.

Holding Aggression At Bay

Washington, Dec. 22.—President Truman said today that in this divided world "we must resort to our own strength to hold aggression at bay." If peace comes, he said, "it will come because we have had resolution to hold fast through perilous times."

He forecast "the certain triumph of confidence over fear."

Mr Truman spoke at a dedication in the Arlington National Cemetery of a set of chimneys given to the nation by American veterans of World War II.

He said: "All men are sick of bloodshed, and 'if we could mobilize world opinion among all men who walk the earth, there would never be another war.' But 'this we cannot do alone,' the President added in a pro-Christian speech, 'for the earth is deeply divided between free and captive peoples.'"

These captive peoples, living in 'daily fear of the concentration camp, cannot,' he said, 'see the hand we hold out in friendship.' He said: "While they are made to respond to our handclasp with a mailed fist, we have no choice but to stand ready in self-defence."

He continued: "In an age where peace must be protected, we must resort to our own strength to hold aggression at bay." He added that, when goodwill prevails and peace comes to earth, it will come not only because the United States has been resolute, but because "we have had the courage to share our resources with other nations who believe in freedom."

After the President spoke, English chimneys and Finnish bells rang out "Nearer My God To Thee."—United Press.

Count Tolstoy Dies In France

Montauban, France, Dec. 21.—Count Stanislas Tolstoy, great-nephew of the Russian author, Leo Tolstoy, died here on Tuesday at the age of 82. He had been living in this region since 1932.—United Press.

Moshe Sharett's Plane Forced Back To New York

New York, Dec. 21.—The plane on which Dr Moshe Sharett, Israeli Foreign Minister, was returning to Tel-Aviv was forced to return to New York's International Airport because of mechanical difficulties today shortly after taking off.

The Pan-American plane, en route to Paris, circled the field after taking off at noon and returned to land without difficulty. Dr Sharett and other passengers were expected to take another plane later.

Asked if Israel would combat the UN plan to implement the resolution, Dr Sharett said, "There is no need for it. It is a self-combating proposition. They just can't do it. They must eject the Government and they cannot carry it through."

The opening stages of discussion in the Trusteeship Council indicated how little enthusiasm there is in the Council for implementation.

Asked to comment on Israel's responsibility regarding the resolution, he said: "Israel has no more responsibility than any other government withdrawing from territory which it legitimately holds."

He said he was ready to return here at any time to help to find a constructive solution to the problem. As far as he knew, he added, the Israeli Foreign Ministry had not been moved to Jerusalem.

"It may be moved," he said, "but not now."—United Press.

ISRAEL'S REPLY

Tel-Aviv, Dec. 21.—Israel will continue to transfer its Government from here to Jerusalem despite condemnations of the move by the United Nations Trusteeship Council, a Government spokesman said today.

"Operation Jerusalem" will continue at full swing," the

spokesman declared. "This clock's hands cannot be reversed."

It is understood that the Cabinet will convene to draft a suitable reply to the Trusteeship Council condemnation after Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett returns.

Meanwhile, optimistic reports of peace talks between Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan are described by the usually well-informed Palestine Post as "somewhat premature." Sources close to the negotiators believe that now that the Government and the Israeli Knesset have virtually been established in Jerusalem, Israel is not inclined to "force her intentions upon anyone if they are unwanted." These sources said a peaceful settlement with "any Arab state" was Israel's goal.—United Press.

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Long-Term Rice Plan

London, Dec. 21.—A long-term plan for rice production for export in East and Central Africa was urged in a report published by the Colonial Office today.

The report stated that the exportable rice from Burma, Siam and French Indo-China had dwindled from the pre-war figure of five to six million tons to just over two and a half million tons, and called for "fresh efforts to raise the standard of living of the rising population of the Colonial Empire by the expansion of rice production."

The report was the result of a five-month survey by the East African Rice Mission. It called particular attention to the vast areas of swamp land in Northern Rhodesia, and urged the setting up of a central rice research station in Tanganyika.—Reuter.



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